

According to Mr. Díaz Sánchez's nephew, NGOs have offered Mr. Díaz anti-inflammatory medications to relieve his symptoms but as of yet neither he nor his family have received any such medications to relieve his symptoms. The burden of the cruel treatment he has received and the physical strain of the sub-human conditions in which Mr. Díaz Sánchez is forced to live have completely drained him of his desire to nourish himself. He survives on barely on a few spoonfuls of putrid food each day.

In the face of such horrific mistreatment, the regime's henchmen refuse to provide Mr. Díaz or his family with medical diagnoses. Madam Speaker, let me be very clear, Mr. Díaz Sánchez is suffering at the whim of a monstrous regime just 90 miles from our shore, although he has done nothing other than desire that his children and the long-suffering people of Cuba live in freedom with fundamental human rights and dignity.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Díaz Sánchez has courageously risked his life in order to bring a semblance of humane treatment to those confined in the nightmare that is the totalitarian gulag. His example shines a light of courage on the abominable disregard for human rights in that oppressed island. My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Antonio Ramón Díaz Sánchez and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

HONORING BOB PERKINS FOR ADVANCING JAZZ THROUGH HIS BROADCAST AND WRITING CAREER

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 11, 2007

Mr. FATTAH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend Bob Perkins, an outstanding Philadelphian who has devoted more than four decades as a radio host and commentator to the advancement and enjoyment of Jazz.

"B.P. with the G.M." has been the radio signature for Bob Perkins bringing the Good Music of Jazz to grateful Philadelphia listeners for the past ten years from WRTI-FM, the Temple University flagship station.

Bob Perkins has entertained and informed listeners for 42 years as a radio newscaster, commentator and jazz host, 37 of those years in Philadelphia, while writing opinion pieces and jazz commentary for numerous local publications.

Bob was born and raised in South Philadelphia, where he listened night and day to the radio that was on constantly in the Perkins household. His career took him briefly to Detroit, but by 1969 he was back in Philadelphia at WDAS as newscaster, news director and editorial director. Meanwhile he was hosting a popular Saturday night Jazz program on public radio's WHYY-FM.

Ten years ago Bob moved to WRTI-FM, where he shares his encyclopedic knowledge of Jazz, and the men and women who perform it, with his devoted audience. It is programming that brings prestige and listeners to WRTI-FM while keeping alive this unique and indigenous American art form.

Bob Perkins has been the deserving recipient of more than three dozen awards for jour-

nalistic, broadcast and community excellence. He is the recipient of a Mellon Jazz Community Service Award and the Kal Rudman Milestone in Radio Award. In 2003, he was inducted into the Philadelphia Broadcast Hall of Fame. He and his wife Sheila live in Philadelphia's West Oak Lane section.

At age 73, Bob continues his weeknight and Sunday broadcasts, offering his insights, his stories, and his love on "the G.M." And so I rise in recognition for a lifetime of achievement. On behalf of all your grateful fans, thank you Bob Perkins, native son and Philadelphia civic treasure.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS VALUE-ADDED INVESTMENT TAX CREDIT ACT OF 2007

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 11, 2007

Mr. McHUGH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Agricultural Producers Value-Added Investment Tax Credit Act of 2007, which is designed to give agricultural producers an incentive to invest in value-added enterprises. Through such investment, agricultural producers would not only realize a greater share of the profits generated by their products, but would also further economic development efforts, particularly in rural areas like my Central and Northern New York Congressional District.

Specifically, the Agricultural Producers Value-Added Investment Tax Credit Act would provide a 50-percent tax credit, up to \$30,000 annually, for producers who invest in value-added enterprises. To allow for the cyclical nature of farm incomes, this legislation would allow the tax credit to be applied over a 20-year period. In the case of a farmer-owned entity, the credit would be allocated on a pro rata basis among eligible persons holding qualified interests in the entity.

Sadly, American farmers often get the smallest portion of the profit generated by the raw product they produce. As the agricultural product is transported, processed, and marketed before it arrives on the grocery shelf, several middlemen cash in on the product. By offering this tax credit, we can provide farmers and farmer-owned entities with an added incentive to produce value-added products and move toward greater financial independence. They will be able to earn more by reaching up the agricultural marketing chain to capture more of the profits their product generates. In addition, producer investment in value-added enterprises will help American farmers adapt to the challenges of marketing their products in an increasingly global economy.

Finally, the Agricultural Producers Value-Added Investment Tax Credit Act would further economic development efforts in and help stem migration from rural areas. This aspect of the legislation is very important to all of my constituents as seven of the 11 counties I represent have poverty rates greater than the national rate of 12.7 percent. In addition, five of my constituent counties have experienced a decrease in their populations since 2000.

Thus, it is my hope that my colleagues will join with me to enact this important legislation. It not only would help American farmers, but

it would provide yet another tool in our effort to further economic opportunities and increase the quality of life in our nation's rural areas.

INTRODUCTION OF THE GREENHOUSE GAS ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2007

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 11, 2007

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to announce the introduction of the Greenhouse Gas Accountability Act of 2007. This legislation can serve as an essential first step in a comprehensive policy to combat climate change.

When constructing a comprehensive, economy-wide global warming policy, what is the first thing we have to know? It is what we are currently emitting, who is emitting it, and data on where in the economy it makes sense to regulate. The biggest mistake the EU made in creating its cap and trade system was distributing credits without having a good idea of its emissions first. This resulted in power companies being given more credits they needed. In turn these power companies were able to sell their excess credits and gain a windfall rather than being forced to reduce emissions.

This comprehensive registry will give us all the data we need to craft future legislation and intelligently decide how to allocate credits. I am not suggesting that this legislation act as a substitute to a cap and trade program, however. Speaker PELOSI, Chairman DINGELL and Chairman BOUCHER have all pledged to bring a comprehensive cap and trade bill to the House floor by the end of this year. I applaud these efforts and that is why I am a cosponsor of two of the most prominent cap and trade bills in the House today. At the very least I hope the Greenhouse Gas Accountability Act can become an amendment to one of these worthy cap and trade proposals.

Not only will this bill lay the groundwork for future legislation on climate change, but the bill will serve other important functions as well. For instance, by requiring greenhouse gas reports by entity and by facility investors will be able accurately assess the risks and opportunities of various companies. Currently all investors know that carbon regulation is coming. But despite heroic efforts by the Carbon Disclosure Project, many companies still do not disclose their carbon emissions to their investors. This bill will require all large publicly traded companies to finally let their investors know what they are doing about the climate.

Further, the public will be able to hold companies accountable for their actions to address global warming. Just as we saw with the successful Toxics Release Inventory program, many companies will see the light once they truly become aware of their own impacts. This increased awareness will almost assuredly lead to reduced emissions.

Perhaps the most important aspect of the legislation is that it would require international companies who trade on American stock exchanges to report their emissions abroad as well. No longer will we be in the dark about how foreign operations in developing countries are adding to the world's accumulation of greenhouse gases. This means that we could

finally have a window into what the true emissions of greenhouse gases are in countries that are rapidly developing such as India and China. The disclosures would also provide a strong disincentive for multinationals to relocate facilities abroad just to avoid disclosure or future regulation.

Madam Speaker, in closing I would like to say that we need to accomplish something this Congress to get us on the path toward mandatory emissions cuts. I truly hope that we enact a strong cap and trade bill, but unfortunately the President has made quite clear that he will veto any efforts to enact such legislation. If the President insists on such an unwise decision I hope that at the very least he would consider backing the Greenhouse Gas Accountability Act. Global warming is simply too important for us to play politics with this issue.

INTRODUCING THE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR LOAN FORGIVENESS ACT OF 2007

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 11, 2007

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Early Childhood Educator Loan Forgiveness Act of 2007.

We have paid a lot of attention to reauthorizing the No Child Left Behind Act so far this year. One of the disturbing things we often hear in these discussions is how far behind our students are when compared with their peers around the world. Another problem we have talked a lot about is the persistent achievement gap between well-off, White children and everyone else in this country.

Last month Speaker PELOSI hosted a National Summit for America's Children, where we heard from leading child development experts about the importance of providing high-quality early education opportunities to boost success in school and in life.

Science shows definitively that a majority of brain development occurs in the first few years of life, and that influences—positive or negative—in these formative years can last a lifetime. We were reminded at the summit that “getting it right” in the early years is “far more advantageous than trying to fix things later.”

Kindergarten teachers know from their research: Often when 5 year olds enter school, there is already a noticeable achievement gap between those students from more privileged backgrounds and those from disadvantaged households.

Too often, working families cannot afford to send their children to a high quality preschool, so the youngsters end up spending their formative years in the care of family members—often untrained in early childhood development. The resulting hours in front of a television certainly do not stimulate the positive neural activity needed for healthy brain development.

Not only does this experience limit the child's potential for success in school, it also hurts our country. Children without a high quality early education experience are less likely to contribute to the economy, more likely to commit crimes, and more likely to experience poverty and the poor health that goes with it.

Scientists, economists, teachers, and parents tell us that we must invest in our country's future by funding increased access to high-quality early childhood education.

And yet, time and time again, I hear from the early education community in Hawaii that even with more classrooms and more money, they could not make real progress toward serving every family who wants to send their children to preschool because they don't have enough qualified teachers.

We know that a highly qualified teacher makes a huge difference for children. We owe it to them to have a teacher who knows what he or she is doing. Unfortunately, there are strong economic barriers to increasing the number of qualified early education workers. When students are choosing a career, it is unlikely that they will decide to take on the thousands of dollars in educational debt for a job that will pay so little. The average preschool teacher makes less than janitors, secretaries, and many other workers with only a high school diploma. As the saying goes, “it just doesn't add up.”

We can change the equation. We can start by providing loan forgiveness to students who get a degree in early childhood education or a related field and then teach in low income communities, where the real need is, for 5 years. This bill will do just that.

Cost is not the only prohibitive factor for prospective early education teachers. In some places there are simply no training programs available. Our teachers' colleges are not prepared to turn out the number of quality teachers we will need if we are to make a real investment in early education. Further, even with a more robust workforce, States would not have the money they need to implement high-quality early education standards, build the facilities, and run the programs. I am working with Chairman MILLER and others on the Education and Labor Committee to address these problems in other pieces of legislation.

But while we work on all the other issues, we cannot wait to pass this bill. It is a necessary first step because its benefits will not accrue immediately—training new teachers will take time.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill so that we do not miss a chance to make real progress toward closing the disturbing achievement gaps our children face—both amongst themselves and when compared with their peers around the world.

INTRODUCTION OF THE BLAIR HOLT FIREARM LICENSING AND RECORD OF SALE ACT OF 2007

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 11, 2007

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, today I introduce the Blair Holt Firearm Licensing and Record of Sale Act of 2007.

I introduce this bill in tribute to a brave young hero, Blair Holt, who sacrificed his life in an attempt to protect the life of a friend. Blair was fatally shot and killed by a young man possessing a deadly firearm and a reckless disregard for human life.

Madam Speaker, the proliferation of guns in our community impacts us all. My son lost his

life back in 1999 due to senseless gun violence and my nephew sits in jail today, convicted of fatally shooting someone.

I am sick and tired of shooting and the loss of innocent lives over and over again in our neighborhoods.

In Chicago, since the beginning of this school year alone, over 31 children have lost their life by violence, and the great majority were killed with guns.

This bill will assist law enforcement in tracking the flow of guns and require those who possess guns to be trained in gun safety, handling, and storage.

The purpose of this bill is to restrict the availability of firearms to criminals, youth, and gang members, and to protect the public against the unreasonable risk of injury and death associated with the unrecorded sale and transfer of guns.

I know that the powerful gun lobby will attack this bill for restricting the availability of guns, but all of us who live in the inner cities where our children and family members are losing their lives on a weekly or daily basis understand the need to implement a common sense federal law that will inform law enforcement of where the guns are and who is possessing them.

This bill will implement the same type of system that we have in place for licensing drivers and registering cars. No sensible individual can argue with the fact that with over 200 million guns in the United States, we need a uniform system to keep track of these weapons. Mayors and law enforcement officials across the country have been calling for this type of legislation for years and I hope that we will be successful in making Blair's Bill federal law.

Madam Speaker, the future of our children, our families, and our communities is at stake. I encourage my colleagues to join my efforts to increase accountability in our firearm policy and support H.R. 2666—the Blair Holt Firearm Licensing and Record of Sale Act of 2007.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, June 12, 2007 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.